



City of Whittier

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December 18, 2007

Housing & Community Development
1800 Third Street
P.O. Box 952050
Sacramento, CA 94252-2050

HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT (HCD)

DEC 24 2007

Subject: City of Whittier 2006-2007 General Plan Progress Report

Dear HCD Official:

Attached is a copy of the "City of Whittier 2006-2007 General Plan Progress Report", approved by the Whittier City Council on December 11, 2007, for your review. Government Code Section 65400(b) requires that an annual General Plan progress report be provided to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The purpose of this report is to discuss the City's progress in implementing the General Plan, meeting its share of regional housing needs, and removing governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement and development of housing. This report covers the period between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 464-3380.

Sincerely,

Don Dooley,
Planning Services Manager

Enc: City of Whittier 2006-2007 General Plan Progress Report

HOUSING POLICY
DEVELOPMENT, HCD

DEC 24 2007

CITY OF WHITTIER

2006 – 2007 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION**

December 3, 2007

BACKGROUND

State law requires that each City adopt a general plan that incorporates seven mandated elements. Additional topics may be adopted, which are called optional elements. State law also states that the General Plan should be kept current. This is done through comprehensive updates and through amendments. Updates for an element are usually undertaken at least five years apart, and they look at underlying conditions and preferences. Amendments are typically smaller in scope and typically involve minor changes to the text of the General Plan or modifying the General Plan land-use map. Amendments are typically triggered by a private (developer) application or by direction from the City Council. Changes to the General Plan require a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

On August 3, 1993, the Whittier City Council adopted the City's current General Plan. The General Plan contains eight elements: Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Environmental Resource Management, Air Quality, Public Safety, Noise and Historical Resources. Table 1 shows the status of the City's General Plan elements, including both State mandated and optional.

Table 1. General Plan Element Status.

Element	Required or Optional	Date of Adoption or Amendments	Comment
Land Use	Required	Adopted on May 18, 2006.	The City Council approved General Plan Amendment 06-001 to permit exceptions to the City's minimum residential density requirements in the City's R-2 (Light Multiple Residential); R-3 (Medium Multiple Residential); and R-4 (Heavy Multiple Residential) Zones.
Housing	Required	Adopted on Dec. 12, 2006.	City Staff is currently updating the Housing Element for the Planning period 2006-2014 to comply with its Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements. Staff anticipates that the City's new Housing Element to be completed and adopted by early 2008.
Transportation	Required	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.

Environmental Resource Management Element	Required	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Air Quality	Required	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Public Safety	Required	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Noise Element	Required	Adopted in 1993.	No amendments.
Historical Resources	Optional	Adopted in 1993.	The City will begin updating its Historic Resource Element in 2008.

As required by Government Code Section 65400(b)(1), every city must submit an annual progress report to their local legislative body, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on the implementation status of their General Plan. The annual report must also include discussion on the City's progress in providing its required share of affordable housing, pursuant to Government Code Section 65584, and its effort to remove governmental barriers for the maintenance, improvement and development of affordable housing per Section 65583.c(3) of the California Government Code.

This report covers the period between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

STATUS OF GENERAL PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

General Plan

Land Use Element

The Land Use Element serves as a guide for public and private decision-making regarding land use issues and future development. Specific goals and policies are provided to correspond to major land use issues of concern including: land use compatibility, residential, commercial and industrial uses, parks and open space areas.

The City of Whittier is considered a developed community comprised mostly of single-family residential neighborhoods, with its predominant commercial and industrial uses situated along several major roadways. As a developed community, any future development in the city would occur as infill or redevelopment.

In 1993, an updated Land Use Element was adopted as part of the City's comprehensive General Plan update. Since adoption of the City's current General Plan, the City has processed a variety of new land use developments.

During the time period between October 1, 2006, and September 30, 2007, the City of Whittier has adopted a total of four Zoning Code Amendments, one General Plan Amendment and one Specific Plan Amendment which are detailed below:

1. Zoning Code Amendment 06-004 (City initiated) to amend the City's Municipal Code to generally prohibit the use of barbed wire in the city. (Adopted November 14, 2006)
2. Zoning Code Amendment 07-001 (City initiated) to allow an increase to the maximum fence height for properties that are adjacent to the Greenway Trail. (October 23, 2007)
3. Zoning Code Amendment 07-002(B) (City initiated) to amend the City of Whittier Municipal Code for the purpose of providing reasonable accommodation to the disabled from the City's zoning regulations when it can be demonstrated a minor deviation to the regulations are needed because of a person's disability or limitation. (Adopted July 24, 2007)
4. Zoning Code Amendment 07-004 - (City initiated) to revise the on-site parking regulations for the purpose of regulating parking for multi-family residential zones. (Adopted October 23, 2007)
5. Specific Plan Amendment 05-002(B) to modify various development requirements within the Whittwood Town Center Specific Plan (adopted January 9, 2007).
6. General Plan Amendment 06-002 -The Comprehensive update to the City's 1993 Housing Element (adopted Dec. 14, 2006).

Furthermore, the City is working with a Planning consultant to update the current Uptown Whittier Specific Plan. The 1989 Uptown Specific Plan was adopted in response to the October 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake and because of growing community concern about the need to preserve and enhance Uptown's historic character, its dynamic qualities and its economic viability.

Additionally, the City is evaluating Whittier's manufacturing properties (located roughly to the east of Whittier Boulevard, south of Hadley Street and north of Walnut Street) to determine whether or not this general area should retain its manufacturing land use or be rezoned to another use.

Housing Element - In a continuing effort to provide housing assistance within the community, the City of Whittier and the Whittier Redevelopment Agency have sponsored a number of housing programs, which are implemented by the Redevelopment and Housing Division of the Community Development Department. The Whittier Redevelopment Agency is a separate legal entity established in early 1970's to eliminate blight and improve infrastructure within Whittier's four Redevelopment Project Areas, and to assist low and moderate income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices citywide. The focus of the Redevelopment and Housing division is to provide

financial assistance in the form of low cost home improvement programs, provide essential public services, stimulate the revitalization of older declining neighborhoods and monitor the modernization of essential infrastructure in neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-moderate income residents.

Share of Regional Housing Need - The City's Housing Element identifies Whittier's housing goals and objectives. The City's share of affordable housing units is determined by a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) conducted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Table No. 2 (below) identifies the specific number and type of affordable housing units to be constructed within the City of Whittier from 2000 to 2005. This identification of affordability type is categorized as Very Low (less than 50 percent of Los Angeles County median income), Low (50-80 percent of L.A. County median income), Moderate (80-120 percent of L.A. County median income), and Above Moderate (greater than 120 percent of L.A. County median income). However, the actual affordability is based on many factors including, but not limited to: household income, sales price, financing terms, required down payment, permitted debt ratio and household size (number of persons in the family).

Table 2. City of Whittier – Regional Housing Needs (2000-2005)

Income Category	Housing Units	Percent of Total
Very Low	66	21.3%
Low	54	17.5%
Moderate	70	22.7%
Above Moderate	119	38.5%
TOTAL	309	100%

Housing Element Update – The City's current Housing Element was updated in 2006. City staff is currently working on updating Whittier's Housing Element for the Planning period 2006-2014 in order to comply with its Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements. Staff anticipates the updated Housing Element to be completed by early 2008.

Listed below, are the City's Housing requirements for the Planning period of 2006 to 2014.

Table 3. City of Whittier - Regional Housing Needs (2006 -2014)

Income Category	Housing Units	Percent of Total
Very Low	225	25.2%
Low	140	15.7%
Moderate	151	17.0%
Above Moderate	375	42.1%
TOTAL	892	100%

Under the 2005 Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan, a total of 1,490 new units are anticipated within the City. Between 2006-2007, a total of 96 (actual) units have

already been approved within the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan (located at 16050 and 16110 Whittier Boulevard), with additional housing stock anticipated elsewhere in the City in the near future. For example, up to 1,035 dwelling units may be created as part of the 2008 update to the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan. Therefore, the City of Whittier is actively in the process of creating and approving new housing units for all socio-economic groups in the community.

Housing Objectives and Programs - The following summarizes the progress that the City has made toward achieving Housing Element objectives and development of specific programs:

- 1) **Assistance to the Salvation Army** (CDBG funded): The City has provided a small amount of grant funding to the Salvation Army to support the Hospitality House and Shower program. This program assists homeless individuals by providing a safe environment to eat, sleep, and shower.
- 2) **Housing Rehabilitation** (CDBG and HOME funded) program offers low-interest or no-interest loans to promote the improvement, rehabilitation and/or the preservation housing units. The loans are often times paired with a grant for exterior beautification or lead-based paint removal. Improvements and repairs eligible under the program include lead-based paint testing and hazard reduction, electrical, heating, plumbing, roofing, stucco application, exterior and interior painting, windows, insulation, concrete driveway, kitchen and bathroom repairs, flooring, etc. Like the MHRG program, the program is available to Low-income households earning no more than 80% of the area median income adjusted for family size. In fiscal year 2006-2007, this program funded 6 loan funded rehabilitations. Between its inception and 2006-07, the HOME (Home Investment Partnership Program) funded portion of the program assisted 60 homeowners. CDBG funds are also used for housing rehabilitation purposes. From the program's inception through 2006-07, the CDBG funded portion of the program has assisted approximately 273 homeowners. In addition to the loan the City now offers a grant program of up to \$10,000 primarily for roof replacement. This program assisted 4 households in 2006-07
- 3) The **Minor Home Repair Grant Program** (MHRG) (CDBG funded) is available to low-income families. It makes available grants of up to \$3,500 for minor home repairs such as: painting, minor plumbing and electrical repairs, window and door repairs, and other items of a similar nature including accessibility improvements for the disabled. The program was initiated in Fiscal Year 2004-05. In 2006-07 the City Council allocated a total of \$125,000 in CDBG funds to the program. The program is operated by Veteran's In Community Service (VICS) and Southern California Rehabilitation Services (SCRS). The VICS run program was able to assist 42 households in 2006-07, while the

- SCRS program, which focuses on accessibility improvements, was able to assist two households during the same period.
- 4) The **Rio Hondo Temporary Home** (Redevelopment funded) provides transitional housing, food and related supportive services to assist families and individuals regain self-sufficiency. The Agency has provided annual funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the Home for the past several years using LMI Set-Aside funds (20% of gross tax increment from redevelopment areas). The Home served two families with nine individuals in 2006-07.
 - 5) The **Whittier Area First Day Coalition** (Redevelopment funded) is a homeless shelter that opened in May 2000, and has been funded \$100,000 annually using redevelopment LMI Set-Aside funds. In 2006-07, First Day provided housing for 135 individuals for a total of 12,457 person shelter days. The facility also provides related supportive services to help homeless individuals regain self-sufficiency.
 - 6) The **Women's and Children Crisis Shelter** (Redevelopment funded) provided temporary shelter food, clothing, crisis intervention and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. The Agency has provided \$34,000 annually using redevelopment LMI Set-Aside funds. In 2006-07 the facility gave shelter to 268 persons for 7,071 person shelter days.
 - 7) The **First Time Home Buyer Program** (FTHB) (Redevelopment funded). The FTHB program has assisted 73 families from its inception in 1997-98 through June 2006. However, due to the extraordinary market conditions, the program was suspended during 2005-06 and did not assist any buyers in 2006-07.
 - 8) The **Community Alliance for Responsible Enforcement Program** (CARE) (Redevelopment funded) was added to the Agency housing assistance efforts in 1999. It has the primary goal of enhancing the visual appearance of neighborhood while creating a sense of safety and security in the Area. The Program allows property owners and managers to bring about improvement in building conditions and management. The minimum loan amount is \$2,000 and the maximum amount is \$22,500. Five households were funded in FY06-07. The CARE program has assisted 45 properties from its inception in 1999 through June 2007.

The **Rental Improvement Loan Program** (HOME funded) assists rental property owners with non-interest bearing loans to promote the improvement, rehabilitation and/or the preservation of rental property containing up to eleven units. Two property owners took advantage of the program in 2006-07 to rehabilitate a total of 11 units.

Transportation Element – The Circulation Element defines the transportation needs of the City and presents a comprehensive transportation plan to

accommodate those needs. The Element also focuses on identifying and evaluating local circulation needs, while balancing those needs with regional demands and mandates. The City of Whittier currently participates in local and regional transportation planning and decision-making by implementing the guidelines of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan and conforming to the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

Through the Capital Improvements Programs (CIP), the City has undertaken various projects as described in the Table 3 below:

Table 4. Capital Improvements Programs

Project	Description
OTS Grant for School Radar Signs	Description: Install 12 School Radar Display signs and 1 in pavement lighted crosswalk system. Project cost was \$136,161.
Pickering Avenue at Bailey Street Traffic Signal Installation, paid by SAFETEA-LU and Gas Tax B funds	Installation of new traffic signal for the intersection of Pickering Avenue at Bailey Street. Project cost was \$208,404.59.
Beverly Boulevard and Colima Road Driver Feedback Signs	Installation of Driver Radar Feedback Signs on both approaches to the Beverly Boulevard curve and for the descending southbound grade of Colima Road to alert drivers of advisory curve warning speed and the change in posted speed limits. Project cost was \$30,000.00.
Whittier Avenue Streetlights	Installation of new streetlights along the west side of Whittier Avenue between Philadelphia Street and Hadley Street in front of Whittier High School. Project cost was \$64,392.00.
Revised Posted Speed Limits	Removal existing speed limit signs and replacement with new posted speed limit signs in accordance with updated Engineering and Traffic Speed Zone Surveys. Project cost was \$10,000.00.

Revised Posted Speed Limits	Ongoing project to removal existing speed limit signs and replacement with new posted speed limit and school zone signs in accordance with updated Engineering and Traffic Speed Zone Surveys. Project cost was \$7,500.00.
In-Roadway Lighted Crosswalks and Driver Radar Feedback Signs	Installation of new In-Roadway Lighted Crosswalk at the intersection of Broadway at Newlin Avenue and the installation of twelve (12) Driver Radar Feedback Signs. Project cost was \$136,161.25.
Construction of Sidewalk and Ramp FY05-06 (TDA Fund):	Constructing new sidewalk and ramps at various locations. The project cost is \$42,177.
Pavement Surface Treatment (Slurry Seal) Program FY06-07:	Chip and/or slurry sealing and restriping of lane line of the asphalt streets north of Hadley Street. The total project cost is \$688,352.
Washington Street Rehabilitation (CDBG Fund):	Reconstruction of damaged concrete pavement, sidewalk and curb between Walnut Street and La Cuarta Street at a total cost of \$112,500.
Norwalk Boulevard Resurfacing:	Resurfacing of asphalt pavement, reconstruction of curb and gutter and restriping traffic lane line between Whittier Boulevard and Beverly Boulevard. The project cost is \$306,400.
Construction of Sidewalk and Ramp (SR2S Grant)	Construction of new sidewalk and ramp on the north side of Beverly Boulevard from Pioneer Boulevard to Norwalk Boulevard and on the east side of Norwalk Boulevard from Rose Drive to Beverly Boulevard. Final Notice of Completion pending. The project cost is \$196,820.
Painter Avenue Rehabilitation:	Reconstruction of asphalt concrete pavement, sidewalk, ramp, curb and gutter, installation of traffic loops and restriping of lane lines from Whittier Boulevard to Hadley

	Street. Final Notice of Completion pending. The total project cost is \$1,628,178.
Mar Vista Street Overlay	Repaving of the asphalt street from Painter Avenue to Ocean View Avenue. Reconstruction of sidewalk, curb and gutter as well as restriping of traffic lane line. Final Notice of Completion pending. The project cost is estimated at \$289,000.
Citywide Sidewalk Repairs	Reconstruction of sidewalks damaged by mature tree roots throughout three large areas in the city. Project cost was \$330,000.

In addition to providing street and traffic circulation improvements, the City of Whittier is a local transit operator in the community, providing fixed-route and paratransit service since 1974. Whittier Transit (WT) utilizes four, heavy-duty vehicles. As of April 1, 2005, the City of Whittier has contracted with the City of Norwalk to provide fixed-route and paratransit service. The City of Whittier also contracts with Western Transit Systems to operate the Dial-A-Ride system, which is comprised of six vans and one sedan.

In 2000, the City purchased 4.5-miles of railroad right-of-way to use as a bicycle, walking, jogging, disabled access pathway and commuter trail. The "Greenway Trail" offers commuters an alternative mode of transportation to reduce congestion, traffic, noise, and air quality impacts. Construction of the Greenway Trail began in the fall of 2006 and will be completed in 2008.

Environmental Resources Management Element – The Environmental Resources Management Element (ERME) combines the mandated Conservation and Open Space Elements. This Element identifies environmental resources within the City and establishes a plan for their conservation, management, or preservation.

In terms of the Resource Management, the City has worked collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a water treatment plant on Durfee Road in the Whittier Narrows Dam area. EPA plant has been producing treated water since January 2006. The water treatment plant treats the water to recharge the water back into the ground, into the San Gabriel River or supplies water to the City. The EPA plant produces 90% of City's potable water demand with the other 10% is produced from a combination of water from Central Basin Municipal Water District's Treatment Plant and water from City Wells.

The City is working toward upgrading all city-operated irrigation systems. Four park locations have been upgraded to become part of a centralized irrigation system. Five locations have become SMART systems with shut off irrigation

valves if there is a broken line. As funds become available, additional park sites will be upgraded.

Plans for the 4.5-mile Greenway Trail were approved by the City in December of 2001. The project construction started August 2006 and is expected to be completed by June 2008.

The Greenway Trail will include fifteen (15) irrigation controllers which will become a part of the City's centralized irrigation system. In addition, Phase #1 of the Greenway Trail landscape plan calls for drought tolerant plant material to be installed along the entire 4.5-mile length. The Trail will provide the following amenities once completed: a bike trail, walking trail and connecting trails to several schools, parks, and neighborhoods as well as educational elements located in the four "stations". The City will continue upgrading access, safety and use issues after completing a comprehensive Parks Needs Study.

Air Quality Element – The Air Quality Element is not a state-mandated element but is recommended under the 1991 Air Quality Management Plan for the South Coast Air Basin. The Air Quality Element contains programs that will allow the City of Whittier to contribute to the attainment of state and federal clean air standards. Listed below are projects the City of Whittier is implementing/developing to fulfill the goals of the Air Quality Element.

The City is actively pursuing alternative means of commuting to work. For example, in 2001, the City purchased an abandoned railroad right-of-way (known as the Greenway Trail). When completed in 2008, it will help with air quality by providing alternative means of commuting (i.e., walking or biking) to work.

The City has taken delivery of a second compressed natural gas (CNG) refuse truck, bringing the total amount of alternative fueled vehicles to 5 in the Fleet Department. The City has 6 other CNG fueled vehicles on order: 5 refuse trucks and 1 street sweeper. Each of these vehicles is replacing existing diesel fueled trucks and awarded grant funding is being applied to each purchase (\$20,000 each).

The City continues to encourage flexible work schedules (i.e., 9/80, 4/40) for various departments (i.e. Police Department, Water Division, Parks Department and Community Services Department) and ridesharing by offering preferred parking spaces and other awards. To get "credit" for those employees who are already carpooling, walking, biking or taking public transportation to work, a transportation survey was conducted in 2006. The survey included all employees reporting to work within 2 miles of the Civic Center complex. The survey results found that employees were split into those arriving during the peak commuting "window" from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and all others arriving after 10 a.m. 460 employees were surveyed and the percentage of return was 92%.

The survey results also showed that there are 1,411 employee trips generated within 2 miles of the Civic Center complex within the peak commuting "window". A total of 1,260 vehicles arrive weekly within the window. The survey results also showed that there are 462 employee trips generated after 10 a.m., within the off peak. A total of 379 vehicles arrive weekly within this off peak window. Therefore when the peak and off peak figures are combined the current AVR is 1.12. This figure is lower than last year's total of 1.15, but an additional 174 employees were surveyed.

To reach the City's target AVR of 1.5, the City must have to eliminate 320 vehicles per week or 64 vehicles per day from coming to worksites within 2 miles of the Civic Center complex. The City met the 2005-2006 Air Quality Improvement Plan (AQIP) requirements by purchasing emission credits, so that Whittier immediately met its average vehicle rider ship (AVR) goal of 1.5 persons per vehicle.

The City has also begun installing solar systems for irrigation, speed radar signs (i.e. Painter and La Cuarta) and crosswalk signs (Norwalk and Orange). Several solar instruments will also be incorporated into the Greenway Trail, including lighting and irrigation. The City is in the process of installing additional solar powered pedestrian crosswalks and radar signs.

It should also be noted that street and parking area cleaning is completed on a weekly or bi-monthly basis throughout the City. More regular cleaning takes place within specific areas of Uptown Whittier area.

Public Safety Element - The Public Safety Element addresses both natural and man-made hazards that may result in economic and social disruption, the loss of life, and/or damage of property. In an effort to minimize such loss/damage due to earthquakes, flood, fire, landslides, crime, hazardous materials/waste contamination and man-made hazards, the City has adopted a Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) emergency operations plan. This disaster plan integrates community resources into municipal emergency management, including a list of local resources such as personnel, equipment, material, specialized medical and other training and auxiliary communications ARES/L.A. County Disaster Communications Systems.

As required by Presidential Directive 5, which was issued after September 11, 2001, the City has adopted Resolution No. 7875, which recognizes the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and adopts NIMS principles and policies into the City's emergency management system. The national NIMS is essentially based on California's SEMS model. Although the two systems are very similar, in 2008, the City's existing SEMS-based emergency operations plan will be updated, where necessary, to be fully compliant with NIMS. In conformance with the SEMS/NIMS emergency operations plan, the City of Whittier has continued to perform regular workshops, exercises and disaster drills in conjunction with other

agencies (e.g., L.A. County Fire Department) and other institutions (e.g., Whittier College) that will help establish and maintain an on-going state of readiness within the City organization.

The City approved a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan on September 14, 2004, which was also reviewed and approved by FEMA in June 2005. The Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist the City of Whittier in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding and wildfires. The list of mitigation actions in the plan is reviewed by City staff on an annual basis prior to preparing yearly budget requests.

The Police Department has also continued to enhance community safety through crime prevention and innovative strategies. Some of the existing law enforcement programs that have promoted public safety in City of Whittier include the Neighborhood Watch Program, Public Service Area policing structure, a DUI and seat belt enforcement grant program, the School Resource Officer program and a peer-mentoring program for at-risk youth. In addition, the Police Department had added an additional traffic officer through an OTS grant thus augmenting resources specific to traffic safety. The Department has trained all personnel in weapons of mass destruction and issued protective gear, which was funded by grants. Furthermore, a new state-of-the-art vehicle command post was purchased and is fully operational to be used in Whittier or any other area E jurisdiction during critical incidents. Moreover, the City continues to participate in a multi-agency crime task force that maintains collaborative partnerships between various law enforcement agencies, courts, parole, probation, the District Attorney's office and local school districts. Finally, this collaborative effort has resulted in the first gang injunction for the City which will be granted in the near future.

Noise Element – The Noise Element of the General Plan is dedicated to protecting the community from excessive noise. The City recognizes that there are two major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. With respect to stationary noise sources, they are generally associated with industrial and commercial activities, construction work, and human activity. Mitigation of these noise sources typically involves limiting business hours, restricting commercial and industrial business operations to enclosed buildings, and/or considering land use compatibility when determining an acceptable limit for noise exposure for various land uses. A variety of these options continue to be implemented for all new developments in the City as a means of mitigating adverse noise impacts. It is important to note that the City routinely requires noise studies (particularly for new residential development) to ensure compliance with the City's Noise

Ordinance. Noise mitigation is therefore applied to all new projects, as necessary.

Historical Resources Element – The Historical Resources Element is an optional Element that specifically meets the historic preservation needs of the City. The comprehensive update of the City's historic resources ordinance, in 2001, continues to serve as a guide for the historic resources located throughout the City. The most recent and prominent addition to the list of National Landmarks is the Whittier Train Depot, which was placed back on the National Register in 2004. In addition, the City added to Whittier's "Official Local Register of Historic Resources" the house at 13634 Mar Vista on September 2005. This is one of the oldest homes in Whittier, being constructed between 1880 and 1890, and is associated with the early Whittier Quaker Colony.

The City of Whittier approved the use of Mills Act agreements, in the early 1990s, for the owners of designated historic properties or contributing resources within a historic district. Based on this action, the City promotes awareness and the use of Mills Act Agreements as an incentive for the preservation of local historic buildings. This agreement provides a method of reducing property taxes in exchange for the continued preservation of the property. Property taxes are recalculated using a specific Mills Act assessment method. Between the period of 2006-2007, the City of Whittier has received and approved one new Mills Act Agreement application. Currently, there are a total of 30 Mills Act Agreements within Whittier.

The City also approved 13 "period appropriate" additions to structures over 50 years old throughout the City between 2006 and 2007.

In 2002, Whittier completed a citywide windshield survey of all residential structures built prior to 1941, based on an historic architectural context. A total of 1,516 buildings from the survey were found to have retained enough historic fabric and architectural integrity to warrant some degree of historic value and preservation. Therefore, in 2006, the City hired Galvin Preservation and Associates to develop a "Tiering System" to identify specific preservation standards to be applied to each of the 1,516 buildings based on one of four preservation tier categories. Each tier requires certain thresholds to be met for each building being evaluated in order to assign its Tier ranking. Once the details of the Tiering System are completed in 2008, it will be incorporated into the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance which will be comprehensively updated in 2008 in conjunction with the City's Historic Resource Element.

It should also be pointed out that in 2006-2007, staff attended several historic preservation seminars to better identify and manage historic resources within the City of Whittier.

-The End-

